



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a cordierite ceramic body, comprising:
 - a mixing step of mixing a ceramic starting material comprising a ceramic virgin starting material and reclaimed powder and a binder to produce a mixed starting material,
 - a humidifying step of adding a humidifying liquid to the mixed starting material to produce a humidified starting material,
 - a molding step of kneading and extruding the humidified starting material to mold a ceramic molded article,
 - a drying step of drying the ceramic molded article,
 - a cutting step of cutting off an unnecessary part of the ceramic molded article after drying and thereby machining the ceramic molded article into a predetermined length, and
 - a calcining step of calcining the ceramic molded article having the predetermined length to produce a ceramic calcined body,
- wherein the method further comprises a reclaiming step of crushing to a powder the unnecessary part generated in the cutting step and then classifying the crushed powder to remove particles having a particle size less than 1 mm to produce a reclaimed powder composed of particles of a size of 1 mm or greater falling in a predetermined size range, and the reclaimed powder is used at least as a part of the ceramic starting material in the mixing step.

2. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a cordierite ceramic body according to claim 1, wherein in the mixing step, the content of the reclaimed powder in the ceramic starting material is from 1 to 30 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the virgin starting material.

3. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a cordierite ceramic body according to claim 1, wherein the cordierite ceramic body has a honeycomb structure.

4.-17. (Canceled).